

O A K H A M

U R B A N   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L

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A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

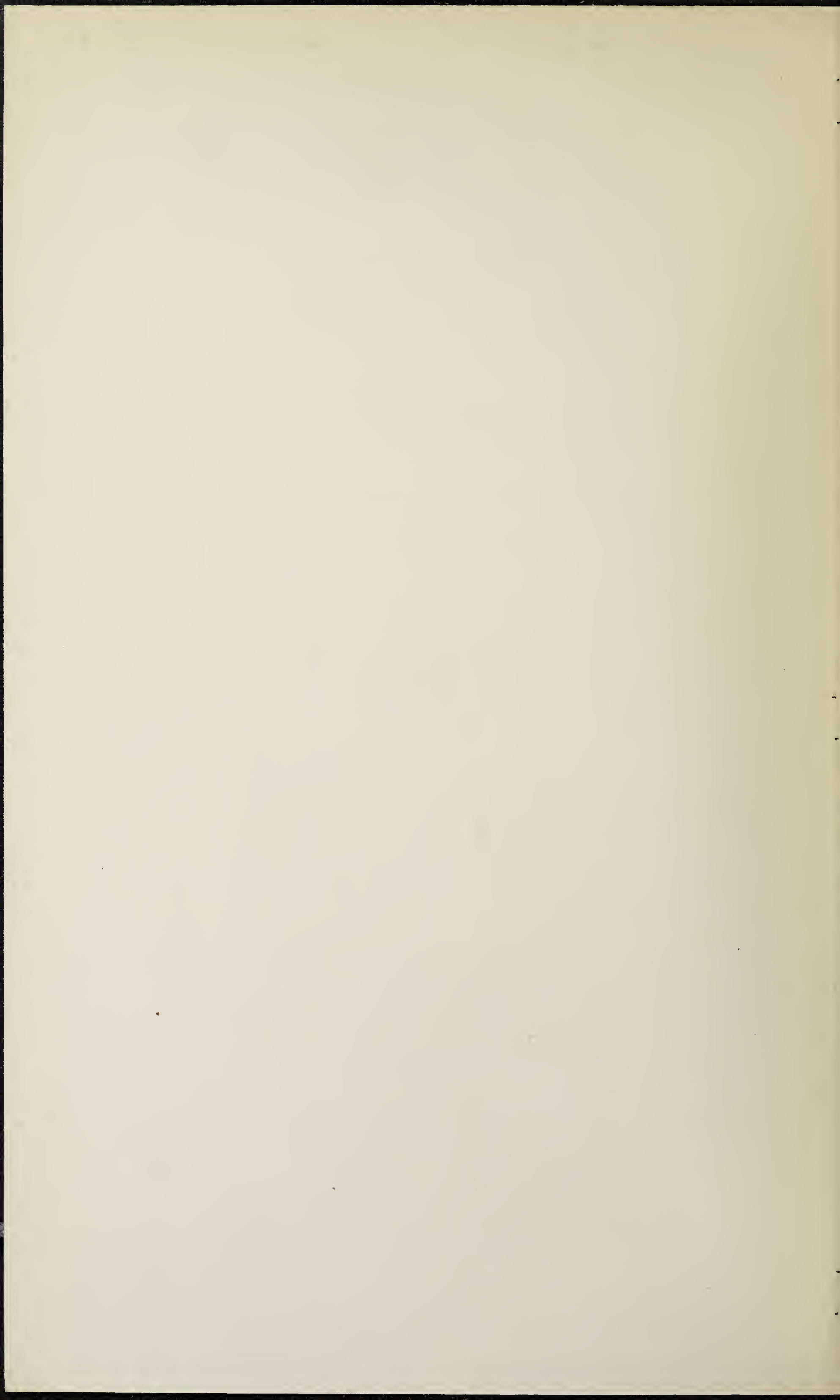
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Y E A R   E N D I N G

31ST.   D E C E M B E R,   1952

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OAKHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1952

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I deal briefly in this report with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) ...	2,250
Registrar General's estimate of population .	3920
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1952 .	1,220
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1952 ...	£25,384
Nett product of a penny rate...	£ 100

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births - Legitimate	40	27	67
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
	40	27	67
	-----	-----	-----
Still Births - Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

	<u>Rate for District</u>	<u>Rate for England and Wales</u>
Birth Rate	20.3	15.3
Death Rate	9.1	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	29.8	27.6

These statistics can be regarded as satisfactory.  
Only two deaths occurred in infants under one year of age.

## CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	9
Coronary disease, angina	-	3
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
Other heart disease	2	4
Other circulatory disease	2	-
Pneumonia	1	-
Bronchitis	2	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	3
All other accidents	-	2
Total	17	28

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### 1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health - J. Young, M.B., Ch.B.,  
D.P.H. Camb.

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the  
Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in  
which this District is included.

Sanitary Inspector - H. Tabberer, Sanitary Inspector's  
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Sanitary Inspector is also the Surveyor of the  
Urban District.

### 2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The following examinations in your area were  
carried out during the year at the Public Health  
Laboratory, Leicester.

Throat Swab	...	...	...	14
Nose Swab	...	...	...	1
Faeces	...	...	...	33
Sputum	...	...	...	13
Blood	...	...	...	19
Urine	...	...	...	6
Vaginal Swab	...	...	...	1
Ear Swab	...	...	...	6
Pleural Effusion	...	...	...	1
Pus from abscess	...	...	...	1
Swab from conjunctiva	...	...	...	6
Swab from tongue	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	8
Water	...	...	...	17



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Bacteriological      Chemical

1. (i) WATER

Number of samples taken for analysis :-

(a) from wells ... ..	nil	-
(b) from piped supply ..	12	-
(c) at sources of public supply ... ..	5	-

Results of samples taken :-

(a) from wells - unsatisfactory - nil -  
satisfactory - nil -

(b) from piped supply-

unsatisfactory	-	nil	-
satisfactory	-	12	-

(c) at sources - unsatisfactory - nil -  
satisfactory - 5 -

In 3 cases the public supply was substituted for well water.

The public supply was restricted for a few weeks during the winter.

The Council's water undertaking extends to all but 24 houses in the Urban District, and supplies are given to Braunston, Burley and parts of Ashwell and Barleythorpe in the Rural District of Oakham.

9 of the 24 houses referred to are situated where there is a main and it is reasonable to expect them to connect. Main supply will shortly be made available to 7 others.

During the year a 3" main was extended 73 yards on the Uppingham Road. 260 yards new main was laid to serve a new housing estate, and 530 yards to serve a factory and other consumers.

Over 98% of the houses and of the population of the Urban District are supplied by the Council. In some cases the water is not laid into the houses, and in a few cases, one tap is shared by two or more houses.

The provision of an adequate water supply for the town continues to receive the careful consideration of the Council. A new bore yielding 70,000 gallons per day was put into use during the year

## (ii) DRAINAGE &amp; SEWERAGE

There are 53 houses not connected to the public sewer, but to cesspools or septic tanks and filters, of which there are 22.

(iii) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number in the District at the end of 1952 :-

(1)	Privies	...	...	...	...	-
(2)	Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	30
(3)	Water Closets	...	...	...	...	approx. 1,650

Number of privies and pail closets converted to water carriage system during the year..... nil.

At 21 of these 30 pail closets, either water mains or sewers are not available within the distance laid down in the Act. Some of the remaining 9 are at old houses which are likely to be demolished when the housing situation is eased.

(iv) PUBLIC CLEANSING

One man is engaged part time on the Refuse Tip. The tip is kept practically free from rats and no insect nuisance occurs. The Council use a Karrier Bantam petrol-driven refuse collecting vehicle, and the work is done in 5 days each week.

The small quantity of nightsoil is tipped at the Sewage Disposal Works.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The particulars given under this heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report.

Total number of complaints received	...	...	23
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered arising out of complaints	.	...	23

Nature of Inspections

Number of Inspections and Revisits.

	Dwelling houses (all purposes)	...	190
	Tents, Vans, etc.	...	-
X	Slaughter houses	...	-
	Food premises	...	52
	Dairies	...	7
	Offensive trades	...	-
	Animal keeping	...	5
	Factories etc.	...	24
	Shops	...	30
	Other premises	...	45
	Water wastage	...	70
			-----
			423
			-----

X Slaughtering takes place at the Central Abattoir, Melton Mowbray.

The Council is still not satisfied with regard to conditions affecting the transport of meat, but at the time of writing an improvement has been made and your Sanitary Inspector and I are of the opinion that transport and handling methods are reasonably satisfactory.

The development of the town which has taken place since 1945 has considerably reduced overcrowding, and the movement of population has brought about much incidental improvement of environmental hygiene.



## NOTICES

<u>Preliminary</u>		<u>Housing</u>	<u>Other</u>
Outstanding on 1st January, 1952	...	-	-
Issued during the year	...	8	6
Complied with during year	...	5	6
Outstanding 31st December, 1952	...	-	-
Statutory action necessary	...	-	-

### Statutory

Outstanding 1st January, 1952	...	-	-
Issued during the year	...	-	-
Complied with during year	...	-	-
Outstanding 31st December 1952	...	-	-

Most of the work is done by letter, interview or telephone, and few formal notices, either preliminary or statutory, are used. Some nuisances, such as blockages in drains, are abated by Council men, this being considered the quickest method.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

A Court Order was obtained for the removal of an aged woman to Suitable Premises for Care and Attention. She died during the year.

The Council has since authorised the Medical Officer to take immediate action in cases of urgency as provided by Section 1 (3) of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951.

### CONTROL OF RATS

The Council has joined with the Rural District Councils of Oakham, Barnack and Ketton to employ a Pest Control Officer. All complaints are promptly dealt with and there is little evidence of rats in the town.

### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

No houses were found to be infested during the year, but precautionary spraying was done in one suspected case.

### SCHOOLS

The Secondary School is a modern well-lighted building, so also are the Junior House, "Wharflands" and "Deanscroft". The others are mainly old-fashioned, but the sanitary conditions are reasonably satisfactory and the water supply is good.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The swimming bath is owned by the School Trustees and loaned to the Council. Six inspections were made during the season.

## INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY

At the end of the year there were five distributors and three premises registered. 7 inspections of premises were made.

No action was found necessary under Regulation 20 - Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

Dealers and Supplementary Licences for retailing specially designated milk were issued during the year as follows :-

<u>Tuberculin Tested.</u>	<u>Pasteurised.</u>	<u>Sterilised.</u>
1	2	1

2 Biological samples were submitted and were found satisfactory.

6 other samples were taken and 5 found to be satisfactory. 1 was found not to conform with the standard of pasteurisation, but this was not from a dealer holding a "pasteurised" licence.

### ICE CREAM

No ice-cream is now made in Oakham.

### MEAT SHOPS, MEAT STORES, ETC.

Number of inspections ..... 12

26 lbs. imported bacon and ham and 13½ lbs. home killed beef was surrendered as unfit. 7½ lbs. tinned pork and 6 lbs. jellied veal was also surrendered.

### PLACES WHERE FOOD (OTHER THAN MEAT) IS KEPT OR PREPARED FOR SALE.

Number of inspections ... .. 40

56 lbs. canned fruits were voluntarily surrendered as unfit.

The revival of the open market has been closely watched and Food Handling Bye-Laws adopted by the Council in July 1950 are applied here, and at the shops in the town.

From inspections which I have made with the Sanitary Inspector, I am of opinion that generally speaking the Food Shops in the Town are well conducted with due regard to hygiene.

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# H O U S I N G

## 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(a)	(i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	110
	(ii) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	190
(b)	Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932 ...	-
(c)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	- 6
(d)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	13

## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers... ..	1
Houses demolished without necessity of Demolition Order ... ..	-

## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	-
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	-
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice served under Public Health Act, 1936	-

## 4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

(a) Number of dwelling houses known to be overcrowded at the end of 1952 ... ..	3
(b) Number of families dwelling therein ...	5
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	23

There are a few cases where houses are uncomfortably full, but are not overcrowded by the Standards laid down in the Housing Act, 1936

One case of overcrowding, involving 7 persons, was abated in 1952. One of the three families has been allocated a house.

## HOUSING (CONTINUED)

There were, (at 31st December 1952), living at Oakham, 86 applicants for Council Houses. 19 of these persons are sharing houses with parents or others. 60 persons now outside the Urban District, but having Oakham connections or employment, also require houses here.

During the year 24 Council houses and 11 private houses were completed.

At the end of 1952 the Council owned 238 houses, in addition to 10 temporary bungalows rented from the Ministry.

The following table shows housing development in the last 26 years :-

YEAR	Houses completed other than by Council	Council Houses	
1927	9	12	
1928	-	8	
1929	3	16	
1930	5	3	
1931	2	-	
1932	4	-	
1933	2	24	
1934	10	6	
1935	15	-	
1936	19	12	
1937	10	6	
1938	13	8	
1939	13	-	
1940-45	-	-	
1946	-	15	
1947	7	5	
1948	2	27	
1949	16	32	
1950	8	13	
1951	13	37	
1952	11	24	
TOTAL	162 X	248	410
AVERAGE FOR 26 YEARS			16

X In addition, there have been conversions and adaptations.

Contracts in progress at the end of the year will provide 45 houses.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-
Measles	12	-	-
Pncumonia	8	-	1

It is noteworthy that no case of Diphtheria  
or Dysentery occurred during the year.

A G E    G R O U P S

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Under one</u>	<u>1 2</u>	<u>2 3</u>	<u>3 4</u>	<u>4 5</u>	<u>5 10</u>	<u>10 15</u>	<u>15 20</u>	<u>20 35</u>	<u>35 45</u>	<u>45 64</u>	<u>65 &amp; over</u>
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	2	-	9	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	3	-	1	1

T U B E R C U L O S I S

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG.

Medical Officer of Health.



